



Bahasapil language

The **Bahasapil language** is an Austronesian language spoken in the south Philippines, most notably on Mindanao.

History

The Bahasapil language is thought to have initially formed as a pidgin language during the slave trading between the Bengal region of (then) India and the Philippines. There was a large but unknown number of South Asian Filipinos, as the majority of the slaves imported into the archipelago were from Bengal^[2] and Southern India, adding Dravidian speaking South Indians and Bengali speaking Bengalis into the ethnic mix. It is thought that over time, the Dravidian speaking South Indians declined and that the number of Bengali speakers increased. This resulted in higher cultural diversity, and it is thought that the languages of Tagalog and Bengali merged into one, overtime becoming the modern Bahasapil. Thus, it is referred to as **Bahasapil**, a language related to Tagalog but with Bengali influences.

Bahasapil has helped to integrate Islam in the Philippines, the minority Muslim community of Bengali people integrated into the existing Muslim population of the Philippines in Mindanao.^[3] Bahasapillan Muslims have experienced the prejudice against minority Muslim populations in the Philippines.^[4]

Sample Text and Phrases

The following is a short text written in Bahasapil:

‘Kumusang, amo kalán sau sa parkoba anamát, seng, amo yang isa restoranba mahamát, sa padan nám balati sigát. Ilán, amokan ane at amo sau Cotabato sungo ana anagin. Cotabato sungo gam balakan, tapi ata magaba lihan shaina anata kong.’

Translation- ‘Hello, yesterday I went to the park then I ate in a restaurant, the food was really good. Tomorrow, my sister and I are going to go to Cotabato city. Cotabato city is quite big, but we have gone there a thousand times.’

Some common phrases in Bahasapil include:

Kumusang- Hello

Bahasapil	
Bahasapil	
Native to	<u>Philippines</u>
Ethnicity	<u>Filipino</u> (Bahasapillan)
Native speakers	40,000-60,000 ^[1]
Language family	<u>Austronesian</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <u>Malayo-Polynesian</u>▪ <u>Philippine</u>▪ Bahasapil
Writing system	<u>Latin</u>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	<i>None (mis)</i>

- Ibal-** Yes (formal)
- Lamin-** No (formal)
- Ilaya-** Goodbye
- Dalám itu-** Thank you
- Mai-** Sorry, excuse me

Phonology

Bahasapil phonology is very similar to that of Tagalog,^[5] though a notable difference is that Bahasapil does not have any glottal consonants. This is because of its history, as it was influenced by Bengali, which only has 1 glottal consonant. It is thought that as the language developed, the glottal consonants were lost.

Although there are some slight differences in consonants, the vowels are identical in Bahasapil and Tagalog. The vowels haven't been influenced greatly by Bengali, as it also shares some vowels with Tagalog.

Consonants

	<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Velar</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>p</u> <u>b</u>	<u>t</u> <u>d</u>	<u>tʃ</u> <u>dʒ</u>	<u>k</u> <u>g</u>
<u>Nasal</u>	<u>m</u>	<u>n</u>		<u>ŋ</u>
<u>Fricative</u>		<u>s</u>	<u>ʃ</u>	
<u>Sonorant</u>		<u>l</u>	<u>j</u>	<u>w</u>
<u>Rhotic</u>		<u>r</u>		

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>Close</u>	<u>i</u>	<u>u</u>
<u>Mid</u>	<u>ɛ</u>	<u>ɔ</u>
<u>Open</u>	<u>a</u>	

Grammar

Nouns

Personal pronouns

Bahasapil personal pronouns

Person	Nominative case	Accusative case	Genitive case	Reflexive
1st, singular	<i>amo</i>	<i>amoba</i>	<i>amokan</i>	<i>amoten</i>
2nd, singular	<i>itu</i>	<i>ituba</i>	<i>itukan</i>	<i>ituten</i>
3rd, singular	<i>esi</i>	<i>esiba</i>	<i>esikan</i>	<i>esiten</i>
1st, plural	<i>ata</i>	<i>ataba</i>	<i>atakan</i>	<i>ataten</i>
2nd, plural	<i>itu</i>	<i>ituba</i>	<i>itukan</i>	<i>ituten</i>
3rd, plural	<i>tila</i>	<i>tilaba</i>	<i>tilakan</i>	<i>tilaten</i>

Plural nouns

In Bahasapil, nouns are made plural using the plural particle *na* which is added as a suffix. This particle can be applied to any noun to make it plural.

Beti: woman

Betina: women

Verbs

Verb order

Bahasapil, like both Bengali^[6] and Tagalog^[7], follows a SOV (Subject-Object-Verb) sentence structure. Bahasapil also lacks a specific word for ‘to be’ in the present tense, in other tenses, it is *sig*.

Negative verbs

Verbs are made negative using the particle *ng*, it always precedes the verb that it affects as a separate word.

Amo ituba kasat: I see you.

Amo ituba **ng** kasat: I **don’t** see you.

References

1. "Factsheet on Islam in Mindanao | Philippine Statistics Authority" ([https://rsso11.psa.gov.ph/content/factsheet-islam-mindanao#:~:text=The%20Mindanao%20island%20group%20is,14.30%25\)%20occupying%20the%20ARMM.](https://rsso11.psa.gov.ph/content/factsheet-islam-mindanao#:~:text=The%20Mindanao%20island%20group%20is,14.30%25)%20occupying%20the%20ARMM.)). *rsso11.psa.gov.ph*. Retrieved 2025-02-20.
2. Bosma, Ulbe (2019), Campbell, Gwyn; Stanziani, Alessandro (eds.), "Trafficking, Slavery, Peonage: Dilemmas and Hesitations of Colonial Administrators in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Malaysia" (https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1057/978-1-349-95957-0_6), *The Palgrave Handbook of Bondage and Human Rights in Africa and Asia*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, pp. 113–135, doi:10.1057/978-1-349-95957-0_6 (https://doi.org/10.1057%2F978-1-349-95957-0_6), hdl:1871.1/eb780e3a-60b2-4f2f-a086-6a29d9cb7221 (<https://hdl.handle.net/1871.1%2Feb780e3a-60b2-4f2f-a086-6a29d9cb7221>), ISBN 978-1-349-95957-0, retrieved 2025-02-20
3. Stark, Jan (2003-04-01). "Muslims in the Philippines" (<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13602000305937>). *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*. **23**: 195–209. doi:10.1080/13602000305937 (<https://doi.org/10.1080%2F13602000305937>).
4. Bernardo, Allan B. I. (2024-05-01). "Polyculturalism and attitudes towards cultural minorities in the Philippines" (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0147176724000385>). *International Journal of Intercultural Relations*. **100**: 101969. doi:10.1016/j.ijintrel.2024.101969 (<https://doi.org/10.1016%2Fj.ijintrel.2024.101969>). ISSN 0147-1767 (<https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0147-1767>).
5. Llamzon, Teodoro A. (1966). "Tagalog Phonology" (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/30029139>). *Anthropological Linguistics*. **8** (1): 30–39. ISSN 0003-5483 (<https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0003-5483>). JSTOR 30029139 (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/30029139>).
6. Banerji, Sharbani (2003-01-01). "Focus, Word Order and Scope Effects in Bangla" (<https://www.degruyterbrill.com/document/doi/10.1515/flin.2003.37.1-2.35/html>). **37** (1–2): 35–76. doi:10.1515/flin.2003.37.1-2.35 (<https://doi.org/10.1515%2Fflin.2003.37.1-2.35>). ISSN 1614-7308 (<https://search.worldcat.org/issn/1614-7308>). **{{cite journal}}: Cite journal requires |journal= (help)**
7. Shih, Stephanie S.; Zuraw, Kie (2017). "Phonological conditions on variable adjective and noun word order in Tagalog" (<https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/24/article/680475>). *Language*. **93** (4): e317 – e352. ISSN 1535-0665 (<https://search.worldcat.org/issn/1535-0665>).

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bahasapil_language&oldid=1297205154"